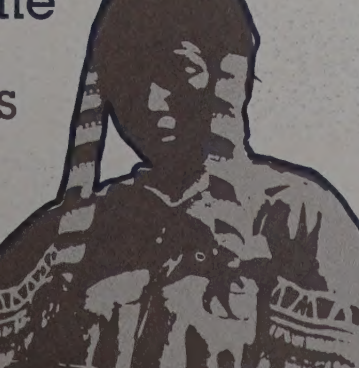
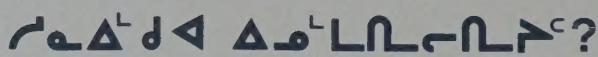


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What is ICI?

The past 20—30 years have brought about dramatic changes in the lives of Inuit. The nomadic life of the past with all of its freedoms and independence has been replaced by a very different kind of life. In the past, Inuit applied their creativity and skill to surviving in the harsh environment of the north. For thousands of years, Inuit were masters at the art of living in balance between their environment and their survival needs. Now, all that has changed. The Inuit of today are faced with an even greater challenge to their survival; the challenge of adapting to an ever expanding southern culture with a different language, different priorities, and different values.

Inuit have a unique culture, a profound sense of tradition and accomplishment. Much of this uniqueness and identity is being lost in the changing times. Inuit Cultural Institute is an organization dedicated to protecting the history, traditions, and cultural identity of Inuit people for generations to come.

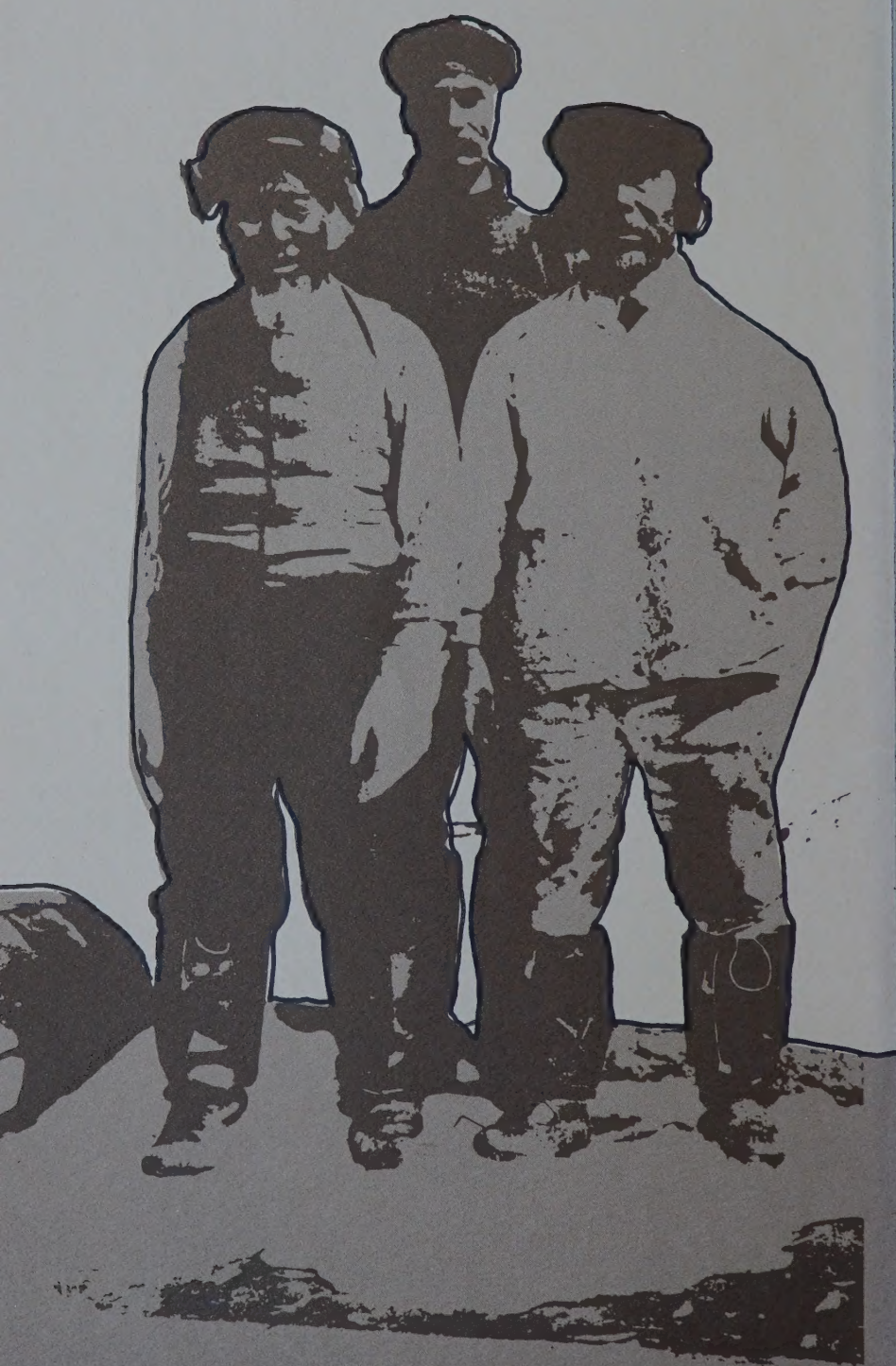
ICI began in the Spring of 1974, as the direct result of the efforts of Inuit Tapirisat. The purpose was to create an institution that would concern itself with the cultural and educational interests of Inuit people in Canada. Besides protecting the cultural and educational interests of Inuit, I.C.I. was also designed to give a better understanding of Inuit culture to those who are sincerely interested in the historical and cultural evolution of the Inuit in Canada.

Objectives

The following are some of the overall objectives of I.C.I.

- To maintain and develop traditional and contemporary cultural skills of Inuit people;
- To facilitate research in Inuit heritage and culture;
- To increase Inuit peoples' knowledge and use of Inuktitut
- To develop Inuktitut learning resources;
- To develop culturally oriented educational programs methods and materials; all of which are consistent with values and traditions of the Inuit
- To make available and more accurate information about Inuit heritage
- To improve the opportunities for the public to become aware of the historical and current role of Inuit people in Canada.
- To assist Inuit in participating more fully and effectively in Canadian society.





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Program Activities

The following is a list of some of the programs initiated or in the planning stages.

Research Library: Inuit Cultural Institute maintains a small research library with documents and periodicals related to Inuit culture. These materials are available on request. If you are interested in a list we will mail one to you.

Photographic Archives: Inuit Cultural Institute is in the process of putting together photographs from collections in various institutions and individuals. Eventually they will be used in publications educational and promotional materials.

Cultural Research Archives: Inuit Cultural Institute has an extensive collection of interviews and music from communities throughout the North. The interview subjects cover all aspects of traditional life; the musical samples include drum-dances, singing, story telling etc.

Cultural Projects: Inuit Cultural Institute has initiated several projects involved with reviving some of our traditional methods of doing things. They serve as ways of preserving some of the survival skills that are part of our traditional identity.

Dog Team Expedition: Inuit Cultural Institute sponsored a dogteam expedition that traveled from Igloodik to Eskimo Point and back. The dogteam stopped at several communities along the way. It provided all concerned with an opportunity to learn from the past—to compare what has been lost or gained by adapting to more modern means of travel.

It is interesting to note that after this dogteam made its expedition there was a substantial increase in the use and number of dogteams in the North. It serves as a direct example of how Inuit Cultural Institute can have a positive influence on contemporary Inuit culture.



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Tent Project: In 1978 Inuit Cultural Institute sponsored a tent building project to revive the almost forgotten art of making caribou skin tents. The caribou skin tent was the traditional shelter for the warmer weather. The project was well documented. Out of this documentation we have a detailed account of a traditional survival method as well as the personal reactions of those involved.

Kayak Building Project: The summer of 1980 will see the initiation of a kayak building project. Traditional construction methods and materials will be employed throughout the project. There will be written as well as film and photographic documentation. The Inukshuk Project will also be involved.

Publications

Inuit Cultural Institute has extensive printing and darkroom facilities that it employs in the production of educational and promotional materials. Here are a few of our more important publication activities.

Ajurnarmat Magazine: Ajurnarmat is Inuit Cultural Institute's major publication serving northern and southern readers. It has over the years built a good reputation for its high standards of journalistic and graphic excellence. Intended as a major communications vehicle for all Inuit, its articles are both relevant and educational.

I.C.I. Newsletter: The Newsletter is intended to keep people informed about the activities of Inuit Cultural Institutes and developments of general interest to Inuit. It is hoped that eventually the format of the newsletter will be expanded to include more items of interest to Inuit.



Hunting & Trapping Lifestyle Booklet: The traditions department is presently involved in production of a booklet that will give younger people who go out on the land hints on survival and preparation. Many survival skills are being lost. The loss of these skills represents a loss of self-sufficiency that is fundamental to the Inuit life-style. This book is an attempt to counteract some of the loss of independence many Inuit feel today.

Womens Traditional Lifestyle Book: Inuit Cultural Institute has plans to put together a booklet on Womans' Traditional skills. The booklet will include interviews and diagrams on a variety of subjects. Topics covered will include such things as the making of traditional clothing, the use of tools, and the preparation of food.

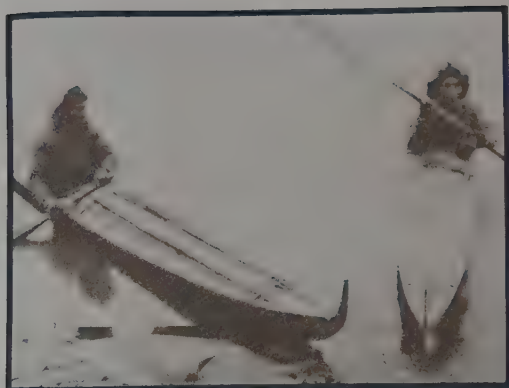
Promotional Materials: Inuit Cultural Institute will be producing Posters and Calendars on Inuit themes. The purpose of these materials is both educational and motivational. They are intended not only to inform Inuit of their past but also to make them proud of who they are.

Textbooks: I.C.I. plans to start printing small textbooks on a variety of traditional and historical subjects. These books will be available to schools or any one else who is interested. For further information call or write us.

Educational Materials and Programs

Inuit Traditions Booklet: Eric Anoee, traditions advisor for Inuit Cultural Institute has put together a booklet on traditional values which, at present, is written only in Inuktitut. The book is perhaps the only one of its kind. It is the only document written by Inuit that talks about the life-philosophy of the Inuit. Eventually it is hoped that this book will be published in English as well.





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Cultural Institute
Point, Northwest Territories

Phone (Through Ottawa Operator)
to Point 857-2803



The preservation of Inuit cultural heritage is a difficult job; particularly with all of the stresses of contemporary life in the North. At the same time that it is difficult it is also one of the most important challenges facing Northern Communities. As our natural resources are increasingly in demand, our human resources are all too often neglected, abandoned, or...taken for granted. I.C.I. is dedicated to the idea that we must never lose sight of the things that make life worth living—in the North or anywhere else. In the long run a peoples sense of themselves is the most important part of their lives. I.C.I. needs your participation and support to accomplish its goals. If you have any questions about us contact us at:

Inuit Cultural Institute
Eskimo Point, North West Territories
X0C 0E0
Telephone (Through Ottawa Operator)
Eskimo Point 857-2803



Photos Courtesy of:
Manitoba Archives
Eskimo Museum, Churchill, Manitoba



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[Information pamphlet]

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